(a) whether Government have planned to extend the universalization of education programme up to class XII during the Eleventh Five Year Plan period; and

(b) if so, the financial allocation earmarked for the extension of the programme?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) No, Sir. However, a concept note on universalization of access to and improvement of quality of secondary education has been prepared and sent to the Planning Commission.

(b) Does not arise.

Supreme Court's directions to Electricity Regulatory Commission

†220. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH:
SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court have issued directions to the Electricity Regulatory Commission to the effect that power tariffs would not be increased without a court order; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the Commission's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) The Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission has informed that the Commission had filed an appeal in the Supreme Court against the Order dated 25.5.2006 of the Appellate Tribunal for Electricity. The issue was regarding payment of depreciation to the Distribution Companies for the years 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05. While the Commission had allowed depreciation at 3.75% for the years in question, the Distribution Companies had asked for 6.69% which was upheld by the Appellate Tribunal for Electricity.

The Appeal of the Commission was taken up for hearing in the Supreme Court on 13.6.2006 wherein the Court had, *inter-alia*, directed the following:

"The appellant may continue the process of determination as directed by the High Court but no final decision shall be taken without leave of this Court."

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

The Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission had again approached the Supreme Court after finalizing the Tariff Orders for 2006-07. The Hon'ble Supreme Court had heard the matter on 6.7.2006 and the following direction was given:

"At the joint request of learned counsel for the parties, list the matter on 25th July, 2006. In the meantime, if any policy decision is announced by the Government so far as subsidy is concerned, the same shall be subject to the outcome of the appeal.

If any additional documents are to be filed, the same shall be filed within a week."

The matter is *sub judice* and has been listed on 22nd August, 2006 for final hearing.

WRITTEN ANSWER TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Air services as joint venture

1329. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the DONER has started looking for joint venture to operate the regional air service;

(b) whether his Ministry had discussions with the Air Deccan and the Kingfisher Airlines to operate air services as joint venture; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the percentage of capital to be invested in the proposed joint venture?

THE MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) to (b) No, Sir, However, the North Eastern Council has engaged the Foundation of Aviation and Sustainable Tourism (FAST) to conduct a study for enhancing air-connectivity in the North East Region. They have submitted a draft report which has been circulated to all State Governments of the North Eastern States for their comments.